

In any event, we certainly wish him the best in the future, whether or not he becomes the Governor of Indiana, and we also hope, DAVID, you will come back and visit us often, because you have been an outstanding Congressman and a very good friend.

1430

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE WILLIAM CLAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I have a very privileged opportunity today, and it is one in which I feel that is at an especially honorable time.

Madam Speaker, I rise to pay a special tribute to the gentleman from Missouri, our friend, our colleague, Congressman BILL CLAY. There are not many people around like BILL CLAY. He is a unique person. He is a scholar, a mentor, a founder, and an inspirational leader, a fighter, and a fierce person for equity and civil rights for all.

BILL CLAY is announcing his retirement in this body after the close of the 106th Congress. BILL CLAY is honored, Madam Speaker, to take his place among the great leaders of this Nation who have successfully and courageously walked the halls of power in Congress.

BILL CLAY has been an unwavering advocate for civil rights. We are going to miss him, Madam Speaker. He has walked in such a way that we are standing on his shoulders, those of us who are here today, even when it was not popular to do so.

Representative CLAY, like many other black-elected officials, realized that the road to equality for black America was through continuous struggle and through fighting a racially-charged system that was obsessed with keeping black Americans from even the most basic of human and civil rights.

I tell this Congress and I tell the world, this is a brave man. As a young man in the military, Representative CLAY and his wife jumped into the all-white military swimming pool, scattering all the whites in screaming horror. He has been jumping in and out of dangerous and unfriendly waters ever since.

He is unafraid, Madam Speaker. As a founding Member of the Congressional Black Caucus, Representative CLAY has served as a leader and mentor to the junior Members of Congress. To each one of us, we follow his lead. We watch his button. We ask for his counsel.

His statesmanship and fearlessness, however, did not begin in Congress. Madam Speaker, a St. Louis native, Representative CLAY graduated from St. Louis University in 1953 and was drafted into the Army. He was married

with 3 children and the assistant manager of an insurance company when he jumped into politics with a successful race for the Alderman Ward 26 in St. Louis in 1959. That same year, he was arrested, along with two companions, for seeking service at a whites-only counter at a local Howard Johnson's restaurant.

The foundation of Representative CLAY's popularity was cemented in 1963, when still as a young St. Louis Alderman, he helped lead a landmark antidiscrimination protest at Jefferson Bank. He was jailed for 112 long days for violating a court order and rose, like a phoenix out of the ashes, to claim his place as a fearless civil rights leader.

Representative CLAY ran for Congress in 1968, the same year that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He was Missouri's first African American to win election to the United States House of Representatives, and since he has emerged as the region's most prominent and powerful black-elected official.

Representative CLAY was sworn into this body on January 2, 1969, and since then has enjoyed many legislative wins and accomplishments.

Among his many achievements are the Family Medical Leave Act, the first piece of legislation signed into law by President Clinton, and increases in the minimum wage. Representative CLAY has helped to steer through legislation on higher education, vocational education and disabilities legislation.

In the field of education and labor, Representative CLAY's legacy is solid. He leaves behind a stack of legislative accomplishments ranging from increased funding for historically black colleges and universities to bolstering health and safety protection for workers.

In the House of Representatives, Representative CLAY has served as a historian of the Congressional Black Caucus, and in doing so has, himself, created a long and outstanding history.

He can very easily be called the historian of the Congressional Black Caucus because he has kept the history of this Congress. He is a prolific writer and academician. He faced many trials and tribulations.

When the history of this body is written and the heroes are identified, the name of BILL CLAY will be at the top.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RETIRING CONGRESSMEN FROM INDIANA, THE HONORABLE EDWARD PEASE AND THE HONORABLE DAVID MCINTOSH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the retirement of two Members of Congress in the State of Indiana.

ED PEASE is leaving Congress after only having served 2 terms, and I feel

very awkward saying a retirement after 2 terms. There is a real loss here, I believe, to Congress with ED leaving and going back to Indiana. It is a loss to the country and, perhaps, a gain to Indiana and his family.

ED PEASE is an individual that always had a very dignified demeanor as he would serve as Speaker pro tempore here in the House.

He is an individual that is always very conscientious. He was kind and considerate and loyal. As a matter of fact, he is the type of person you want as a friend. His work was always based on being thoughtful and methodical in his approach. He was that way, not only in the manner of his life, but in legislating here in Congress.

I think of two things when I think of ED PEASE and what he did here in Congress; his service on the Committee on Transportation. ED was fiercely loyal and always attended every subcommittee hearing and full committee hearing. He was instrumental with regards to 21 States that always had been considered donor States since the inception of the interstate system, and the inequity in the gas tax and its redistribution formula across the States. ED felt that that was wrong, and he worked very hard.

They brought equity back to the funding formula to Indiana which had also always been a donor State since the 1950s. In the last Transportation bill, we received over a billion dollars more than previous bills, and I think ED PEASE's work needs to be complimented for what he did for the country.

With regard to DAVID MCINTOSH, DAVID is, I think, known as the analytical thinker, always working the angle to properly deploy what he perceives as the well-crafted strategy.

He is true to his principles and, at times, makes legislating difficult, because he seeks to hold the line, but that is what legislating is all about, not finding the easy course, but forcing two sides to actually sit down and work through their differences.

The country's loss, like ED PEASE, will be Indiana's gain. DAVID MCINTOSH is running for Governor of Indiana, and he hopes to lead Indiana into the 21st Century.

To ED PEASE and DAVID MCINTOSH, we thank you for your service to country, to the State, and to your community. You are precious assets, and you will be missed. God speed to you and your families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEKAS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. RILEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RILEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SOUDER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CARIBBEAN AMNESTY AND RELIEF ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to address this body and talk about my bill, the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act, and I would like to speak about it again.

I am very proud to introduce the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act, which is legislation to reduce the devastating impact on the Caribbean community caused by the 1996 Immigration Reform bill.

The people of the Caribbean Basin have always been loyal friends of the United States. At the height of the Cold War, the United States looked to the Caribbean nations to fight the infiltration of Cuban-style Communism.

As a result, the Caribbean countries suffered political upheaval, and the people of the Caribbean fled to the United States to escape human rights abuses and economic hardship.

People of the Caribbean have now established roots in the United States, many in my congressional district. Many have married here and many have children that were born in the United States.

The economic structure of the Caribbean is such that it cannot absorb the great number of undocumented people now present in the United States.

Our country, in my opinion, should grant the Caribbean population already in the United States amnesty since they have been here so long and continue to benefit the United States economy.

The Jamaicans, for example, present in the United States, send back to their families 800 million in U.S. dollars per year. The Jamaican economy would be severely strained if that money were to disappear.

In 1997, Congress recognized that the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act would result in grave injustices to certain communities, and so we passed the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act but left out Caribbeans. I believe that that was very unfair.

We need to pass legislation which will help the Caribbean community; thus, I am proud to take the lead on the Caribbean Amnesty and Relief Act.

I would like to again tell my colleagues what this would do. This bill

would allow for an adjustment for permanent residents for Caribbean nationals who have lived and worked in the United States prior to September 30, 1996 and have applied for an adjustment of status before April 1, 2002.

This means that Caribbeans who have been in the U.S. prior to September 30, 1996 without proper documentation can receive green cards.

The bill provides for spouses and children of those who have become permanent residents under section (a) to also become permanent residents of the U.S. if they apply before April 1, 2002.

The bill establishes a Visa Fairness Commission, which will study economic and racial profiling by American consulates abroad and customs and immigration inspectors at U.S. points of entry.

The purpose of this section is to determine whether there is discrimination against Caribbeans and others when applying for a visa or upon entering the United States.

In addition, this section would allow for the Secretary of State to waive the visa fee for those who are too poor to pay.

Again, it is imperative that we try to unite families. It is unconscionable that we would have families here in the United States and others in the Caribbean nations who want to be reunited but through loopholes cannot be.

We are also concerned about the arbitrariness of people who are granted green cards and some people who are not able to get green cards. We think that much of this is done in an arbitrary manner.

Madam Speaker, this is important legislation, and I urge the House to give it favorable consideration as soon as possible. We are, after all, dealing with people's lives. I look upon immigration as a good thing for this country. Immigrants built this country. The reason why this country has done so well through the years is because the best and the brightest from all over the world have come to these shores, as my four grandparents did many, many years ago, and have helped to build this country.

What kind of a person emigrates to these shores? It is not a lazy person. It is someone who is willing to put aside all of the customs and cultures, leaving family behind and coming to this country is certainly an industrious, hard-working person who just wants to be given a chance.

That is what the United States has meant to millions and millions and millions of people through the years, for people to just have a chance. It is a win-win situation, because, in terms of helping the families, we are also helping this country.

Again, if we do not do it as this term winds down to an end, I will be reintroducing this in the next Congress, and I hope we can move so that this travesty of families being broken apart can be ended and that we can finally give relief to people who need it, helping

them, helping their families and helping this country as well.

Madam Speaker, I urge this House to give my legislation favorable consideration as soon as possible.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO DELETE CERTAIN REMARKS FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to delete a portion of the remarks of my special order speech given earlier today.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

DEVELOPMENT OF ANWR IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I come to the floor today to set the record straight on some very interesting, but very misleading, allegations regarding the development of the coastal plain for our oil, your oil, in the State of Alaska.

Let me make it perfectly clear that nobody cares about the environment more than Alaskans. We have balanced our environment with what the Nation needs.

To give you an example of what we have been able to do with winter drilling, directional drilling, ice roads and pads, this is an oil field, what an oil well looks like in Alaska in the winter-time.

This is the alpine field itself. I want everybody to look at what is on the floor. It is snow. It is ice. It is probably 40 below zero, very, very hard to live there. But after we are all done, this well will produce probably 300 million barrels of oil for you, all of it going to the United States. This is what it looks like when we finish drilling.

1445

That is the footprint. That is the footprint. It is not much larger than the desk that the Speakers speak from behind here. That is what is left. Anybody saying there is going to be a huge footprint is not looking, not thinking, not being there.

And this is for us. This is Federal oil. And why should we not develop it? When I think of the footprint, I think of Boston or L.A. or Miami, those are really impacts upon the environment. But an even bigger impact upon our environment is our 58 percent dependence upon Saddam Hussein, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Venezuela, Colombia and Yemen. Think about that for a moment. That is a footprint. And by the year 2005, it will be 61 percent, unless we change our ways.

Last year, we imported very nearly a million barrels a day alone from Iraq.